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Thursday, January 2 - Wednesday, January 8, 2014 Advertising/Newsdesk: 01235 511700 www.oxfordjournal.co.uk

AN EXCITING PROPOSAL...

Brookes to play major role in energy debate

OXFORD Brookes is to play a key role in a major project set to tackle the world's growing energy debate.

The university, along with the University of Nottingham, will be given £1.8million of government funding in the research and development of finding more uses for 'waste' gases.

Entitled the C1NET project, the drive will specifically focus on capture carbon by harnessing the ability of certain bacteria to 'eat' waste gases such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and methane and turn them into usable chemicals, such as fuels or bioplastics.

It is hoped that significant discoveries as a result of the project can ease the planet's reliance on fossil fuels, and reduced emission of greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

By **James Booker**
jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk

David Fell, Professor of Systems Biology at Oxford Brookes, will be the co-investigator in the project.

"Elsewhere in the world there is major interest in studying the biology of organisms which are able to grow on gases such as carbon monoxide, but the UK lags behind the curve," he said.

"This exciting project aims to build a new community of UK academics to unravel the biological, chemical and process engineering aspects of gas fermentation and, crucially, help steer their commercial application."

The collaboration is part of a wider £18million project to create 13 networks in industrial biotechnology and bioenergy funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC).

It is hoped the networks will provide innovative research that will benefit the UK economy.

The collaborative Networks in Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy (BBSRC NIBB) will boost interaction between the UK's world-leading researchers and industry, as well as pooling skills from academia and business to develop projects with the potential to overcome major challenges in the industrial biotechnology and bioenergy arena.

Minister for Universities and Science David Willetts said: "To get ahead in the global race we need to turn our world-beating science and research into world-beating products and services, as set out in our Industrial Strategy.

"These networks will unlock the huge potential of biotechnology and bioenergy, such as finding innovative ways to use leftover food, and creating chemicals from plant cells."

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Do video games impact aggression?

AN OXFORD University study has found women to be twice as concerned as men that video games have a direct impact on real-world aggressive behaviour.

Over 2,500 people were surveyed in the study, conducted in March by the Oxford Internet Institute at the university.

Participants were asked to rate how often they played computer games, and some were also asked the statement 'Violent video/computer games cause real-life aggression'.

The poll also found non-gamers were three and a half times more likely to think that gaming had a direct correlation with real-life aggression.

By **James Booker**
jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk

The results also showed six times the amount of 18 to 24 year old's had what is termed 'concrete' gaming experience – people who admit to playing computer games on most days – than the older population (65 and above).

There were no demographic differences for the group that neither agreed nor disagreed with a gaming-aggressive link.

The study says that as yet there is no scientific agreement on whether electronic games can cause harmful behaviour or not.

Yet it says the public debate on this topic has attracted growing interest, with concerns heightened after events such as mass shootings.

As the number of people who take up gaming is on the increase yearly, the researcher suggests the effects of games are likely to become even more of a focus for future research.

Study author Dr Andrew Przybylski, said: "Whether electronic games are a good thing or a bad thing remains an open question, but it is a topic that stirs up strong views.

"At present, the spotlight is on electronic games in popular, legislative and scientific debates. This study is the first step towards understanding a wider aspect of that conversation.

"As the average age of online gamers continues to rise, this study suggests that the public debate around electronic games may become less polarised.

"History tells us that there have been other examples where novel forms of entertainment have met with social concern about their negative effect on society as a whole."

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Beginners to saddle up in new initiative

A SCHEME to teach adults how to ride a bike and gain more confidence on the road has been launched by Oxford City Council, in relaxed one or two-hour sessions.

Run in partnership with the Broken Spoke Bike Co-op, the programme provides on-road cycle training to any adult in Oxford at a cost of £5.

A free cycle training programme offered by the council in 2013 helped identify a demand in the city for training and for people to learn from scratch.

Cllr Colin Cook, board member for city development, said: "The subsidised on-road cycle training is part of the wider Oxford Cycle City initiative, which aims to increase cycling and improve the cycling experience in Oxford.

"There are lots of cyclists in Oxford but it can be a bit daunting to cycle on the roads, so this training will help boost people's confidence.

"I am pleased that we are working with Broken Spoke to provide further training for local people to encourage them out on their bikes in 2014."

It costs £5 per session, and require participants to bring their own bikes. For more details and to book, go to www.bsbcoop.org/cycling-courses.

Punjabi Lohri festival set to return at Oxford hotel

IFFLEY'S Tree Hotel is hosting a Punjabi Lohri Festival extravaganza on January 11, complete with dhol drumming, bonfires, traditional dancing and special curries during the evening.

It is part of the hotel's curry festival being held throughout January, which sees a different curry being featured each Saturday during the month.

Kavita Pal, managing director of The Tree Hotel Group, said: "Our regulars have demanded a repeat of last year's successful Lohri celebration and our special dishes from around India month.

"January can be quite a dull time for people, so we are thrilled to throw some colour and fun into the mix and more importantly spice it up with our range of curries that are rarely seen authentically in this country.

"At The Tree Hotel we pride ourselves on our celebrations from cultures around the globe and enjoying them together.

"We love bringing together members of the local community and guests from across Oxfordshire to take part in our festivities to create an atmosphere of joy and entertainment.

"We like to do things a bit differently; we like to spice things up!"

Each evening begins at 7pm, and prices start from £9.99 per person.

• *Kavita Pal, managing director of The Tree Hotel*

Do you have a story to share with our readers?
Contact **Jack Johnson** on **01235 516932** or jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Man, 30, robbed and assaulted

A 30-year-old man was assaulted and robbed following an incident in Cowley on Sunday, when he was walking along Wilkins Road.

The incident took place at around 10.30pm, when the victim was approached by two men who asked him for directions.

They then asked him for money and when the victim refused, he was robbed of his iPhone and assaulted, which continued after he had fallen to the floor.

The men made off with £10, while the victim found his phone on the pavement nearby.

Both offenders were black and around 30-years-old. The first was bald, about 5ft 7ins and was clean shaven.

The second had short black hair and was of a skinny build.

Anyone with information is asked to contact investigating officer Detective Constable Charlotte Dunford from Oxford local CID on 101.

Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or online at www.crimestoppers.uk.org.

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Council chief admits errors in consultation

OXFORD City Council's chief executive has admitted the body could have managed a recent planning application better 'with the benefit of hindsight'.

A recent judicial review found the council to have behaved in the correct manner while handling the recent Roger Dudman Way development dispute.

The review, carried out by former president of Royal Town Planning Institute, Vincent Goodstadt, found the council had 'fulfilled its statutory and legal requirements in all areas'.

However, in the report, Mr Goodstadt said: "The findings of this review are that the controversy created by the Roger Dudman Way development lies in a series of separated but clearly inter-related individual decisions, assumptions and judgements made at each stage of the planning process.

"The combined effect resulted in inadequate consultation on the proposals and a less detailed assessment of the proposals than there could have been."

Mr Goodstadt also stressed more time should have been spent on pre-application discussions and longer consultation periods.

He also pointed out there was a slight lack of clarity in the final choices put before councillors, and recommended a more systematic evaluation against all relevant policies.

By **James Booker**

jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Peter Sloman, chief executive of the council, said: "I agree with the report that, with the benefit of hindsight, the council and other organisations could have done more in this particular case.

"We want all the developments in our city to be of the highest quality.

"I also accept the report's recommendations for improving aspects of the service.

"I am pleased that the report acknowledges that improvements are already under way and that the service is committed to learning from experience and not waiting for an external prompt into action.

"In particular I want to expand the scope and effectiveness of our consultation arrangements. I want Oxford City Council to be recognised as an organisation which puts collaboration at the heart of its planning processes."

Despite its recommendations, the report did state that implementation of the recommendations for improvement does not imply they would, with the benefit of hindsight, have led to a different decision on the application.

A council statement added: "The report will now be considered by the council more broadly. An action plan is being prepared to implement the report's findings over the coming months.

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University's entrepreneurial scheme praised

• Will McCallum with Olympic rowing champion Katherine Grainger at the From Passion to Action launch (Picture courtesy of Oxford Brookes University)

AN OXFORD Brookes award scheme has been nominated for a national university honour.

The Guardian University Awards panel has chosen the Oxford Brookes Social Entrepreneur Awards (OBSEA), From Passion to Action, in its Enhancing Student Experience category.

OBSEA was launched in September 2012, and has attracted over 300 participants. It has been lauded for being a key learning tool to enhance student employability, but also as a vehicle for promoting social entrepreneurship.

Roberto Daniele, OBSEA Programme Lead, said: "Enhancing the student experience is at the heart of this university and the news is a wonderful endorsement of our work, regardless of whether we win.

"To be shortlisted is in itself no small achievement in the face of nationwide competition and so much good work going on in the HE sector in this area."

OBSEA Programme Coordinator Jeff Willmore added: "It's very exciting news and a great tribute to the staff, students and recent graduates who have participated in this programme.

"We are hugely grateful to them all and to our partners, UnLtd, for their constant support, and to Student Hubs for their work in helping us to deliver the programme."

The University Awards were launched last year, with this year's winners being announced at a special ceremony in London on February 24.

Don't worry about the fire strikes - chief

EVERY emergency call to the fire service in Oxfordshire tomorrow will be responded to, despite the latest round of nationwide fire service strikes.

That is the pledge of the county's chief fire officer David Etheridge, as he moves to reassure any concerns that emergency calls will be unattended.

Industrial action by the fire service has been rife in recent months, with officials unhappy with government over proposed pension reforms.

A mixture of non-striking full-time personnel and on-call staff will again provide cover locally - the same arrangement used during eight recent strike periods – the latest being New Year's Day.

"We are a 24-7, 365 days a year operation," said Mr Etheridge. "And I would like reassure people again that their Fire and Rescue Service will deal with each and every 999 fire call it receives during these scheduled strike periods.

"It's the festive season and many people enjoy using candles in their home.

"And I would encourage them to ensure that candles are extinguished before people go to bed to help avoid the possibility of them causing a fire.

"Christmas tree lights and other decorative lights are also popular at this time of year, so I would ask those using them to ensure that plug sockets are not overloaded and that wires are in order."

Tomorrow's strikes take place from 6.30am to 8.30am.

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Jayden inquest is opened and adjourned

AN INQUEST in to the death of teenager Jayden Parkinson has been opened and adjourned at Oxfordshire Coroner's Court.

The 17-year-old from Didcot, who had been staying at One Foot Forward youth hostel in Iffley Road, was discovered in an established grave on December 18.

Police officers formally identified the body as the missing teenager on December 20 but a post-mortem found the cause of death to be inconclusive.

Areas around Didcot and Upton were searched thoroughly after concerns grew over her whereabouts. She had last been seen on December 3 at Didcot Parkway train station.

However, officers discovered Jayden's body in a grave in All Saints' cemetery in Didcot.

Det Ch Supt Andy Murray said at a press conference that her family "remain heartbroken" and "devastated".

A 22-year-old man from Reading has been charged with murder while a 17-year-old boy from Didcot has been charged with assisting an offender.

Road finally open after flood damage

By **Adam Flinn**

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

A MAJOR road linking Oxford and Abingdon has reopened, exactly 12 months after flood damage caused a 60metre section of road to slip down the hillside.

The A4183 between Hinksey Hill and Bagley Wood has been shut since December 20, 2012, after heavy rain led to flooding across the county.

Months of ground surveys and drawing up designs for the repair work followed, before the £1m project to rebuild the embankment, install a new drainage system and resurfacing 200m of road could begin in July.

Oxfordshire County Council were also in dialogue with the adjacent landowner and with utility companies, who carried out repair work to the underlying gas and water mains in the embankment.

Cllr David Nimmo Smith, cabinet member for transport, said:

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• Cllr David Nimmo Smith at the reopening of the road, which has been shut since December 20, 2012

"Twelve months ago, we had to close this road after months of above average rainfall culminated in flooding across the county in November and December.

"It has been an enormous task to undertake all the necessary survey work, come up with the solution and then the physical repair work itself.

"We appreciate that local people, bus users and others have been significantly affected by the need to close the road – the sheer scale of the underlying problem meant this was never going to be a quick task.

"I congratulate our highways department who acted quickly to protect the damaged road and to direct traffic to alternative routes.

"They have been meticulous in making sure a job of immense scale and complexity has been successfully completed.

"However we said we would have the job done by the end of 2013, and exactly 12 months on from the original closure we are now able to re-open it.

"Above all I am delighted for the local residents and I thank them for their patience throughout the last year."

Man dressed as Santa robs Cowley store

A KNIFE-wielding Santa Claus is being wanted by police after a robbery of a store in Cowley.

Police say a man dressed as Father Christmas entered the Next store in Oxford Retail Park on December 23 at 9.30am and walked through to the staff area.

He proceeded to threaten a worker with a knife and demanded cash from a safe.

After making off with the cash, he escaped on a bicycle and was last seen heading towards Blackbird Leys bridge.

The offender is described as in his 30s, white, of medium build and between 5ft 9 ins tall.

Under the outfit, he was reportedly wearing a blue fleece and jeans.

Det Sgt Mark Stalder said: "This was a frightening incident which has left the staff member very shaken.

"We would urge anyone shopping around the Oxford Retail Park that morning who saw a man on a bike, dressed as Father Christmas, and who has not spoken to us already to get in touch as a matter of urgency."

If you have any information please contact Det Sgt Stalder via the Thames Valley Police Enquiry Centre on 101.

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Post-mortem on river body inconclusive

A POST-mortem on a man found dead in the River Thame on Christmas Eve has proven to be 'inconclusive'.

Michael Griffiths, whose body was formally identified on Friday had been missing since November 28.

He was reportedly travelling from London to his native Birmingham on that day.

However, he was reported missing and his body was found in the river near junction 8a of the M40 near Wheatley.

Due to the post-mortem proving inconclusive, further tests and toxicology reports have been requested by a pathologist.

These are estimated to take between four to six weeks to complete.

A Thames Valley Police statement read: "Mr Griffiths' family are being kept informed of the latest developments and are being supported by specially trained liaison officers at this time."

The force is jointly investigating Mr Griffiths' death along with West Mercia Police. At the time of print, his death is being treated as 'unexplained'.

Do you have a story to share with our readers?

Contact **Jack Johnson** on **01235 516932** or jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Shopping centre plans 'improved'

PLANS have been resubmitted for the regeneration of the West Way Shopping Centre in Botley, after residents voiced their concerns to the developer's original scheme.

By **Adam Flinn**

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Doric Properties say that the plans have been "significantly improved" following consultations with residents, including local group West Way Community Concern.

Changes to the plans include alterations to design and appearance, a reduced height of up to four storeys along West Way, additional space for small and independent traders, and a piazza with space for a farmers market.

Simon Hillcox, of Doric Properties, said: "We're delighted by the changes to the scheme, which have transformed the design and which have been informed by our discussions with the community.

"We've taken off up to four storeys on West Way and made significant improvements to the way the scheme looks."

Other additions to the plans were also made, including a new hotel, gym, and a reduced number of student rooms in high-end student accommodation.

Mr Hillcox added: "We've brought in a gym, as requested, and had very positive discussions with a farmers market about using the piazza.

"We've also included a small hotel on Westminster Way, which will provide a valuable service locally. This means we have been able to reduce student numbers to 525.

"We hope that people will have a look at the new designs, which can be seen on our website: www.doricproperties.com."

As well as the changes, a number of plans from the original design have been retained, such as a new library, two new community halls, a six-screen cinema and a number of restaurants.

There will also be a new supermarket, Baptist church and a 550-space car park, with three hours free parking.

The changes come after more than 500 people demonstrated against the original plans back in November, as they formed a human chain around the existing complex.

• *An artist's impression of how the new complex may look*

Vale of White Horse District Council will now consider the plans, with a six-week public consultation expected to start on Monday.

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News Bites

Businesses can 'meet the buyer'

OXFORD City Council is staging a Meet the Buyer event in the Town Hall later this month, to help small and medium-sized businesses work with public sector organisations.

It is being held on January 28, and will give businesses an opportunity to meet the buyers from the council, fellow public sector bodies and key contractors.

The day also includes a talk on the living wage and apprenticeships. For more information, email procurement@oxford.gov.uk.

Kitchen fire in Oxford house

FIRE crews had to be called to a house in Oxford on Saturday, after cooking had been left unattended and spread smoke throughout the property.

Crews from Rewley Road Fire Station attended the incident at around 2.15pm, and found that the cooking had burnt dry, with smoke filling the house and coming out through the letterbox.

Watch manager Ricky Thomas said: "This is an occasion when a working smoke alarm has saved the property rather than lives!

"We would like to remind people of the dangers of leaving cooking unattended and to check that they have working smoke alarms in their homes."

No-one was injured as a result of the fire. For fire safety advice, visit www.365alive.co.uk.

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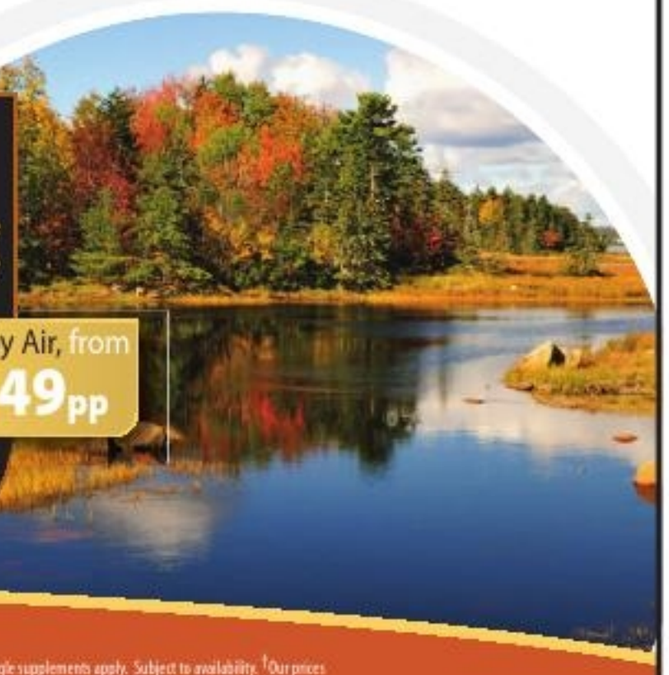

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News Bites

Easier way to report potholes

A NEW smartphone app which can help you report pot holes is expected be launched in February.

The government has given £30,000 to back the development of the app enabling the Cyclists' Touring Club (CTC), the national cycling charity, to revamp its 'Fill That Hole' website and develop a new app.

The club's current app can be used to report potholed roads to councils across the country but the development could see it attract a wider audience.

Free of charge

AN EAST Oxford theatre is opening its doors to the local community this weekend.

Pegasus Theatre on the Magdalen Road is holding an Open House on January 8 and 9 which is free of charge.

There will be tours of the building, an open rehearsal with Kala Arpan, a South Asian dance company, as well as craft classes.

Route changes

A NUMBER of changes are being made to the City4 bus route to help improve reliability and meet changing travel patterns.

As of January 26, there will be changes to the route in Wood Farm and improvements to the service on the Cumnor section of the route where the City4 will now run every 20 minutes.

The short section to Dean Court will be withdrawn.

Help people cut down and 'change for life'

A NEW campaign has been launched today to get families across the Thames Valley cutting down on the amount of sugar and fat they are consuming this month.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

The Change4Life Smart Swaps campaign, launched by Public Health England, is encouraging families to swap sugary or fatty foods with a healthier option of food or drink.

Sugary drinks can be swapped to diet or milk and water, you can buy reduced fat cheese, butter, and low sugar cereals instead of your usual choice.

Figures from the National Child Measurement Programme, show that more than a quarter of children aged 10-11 in the Thames Valley are carrying excess weight.

"These figures show that more needs to be done to help local families cut out certain unhealthy elements of their diet, in order to improve their health," said Professor Kevin Fenton, director for Health and Wellbeing at Public Health England.

"Swapping like-for-like food in your diet could help you cut out surprising levels of fat, sugar and ultimately calories.

"We're committed to doing as much as possible to support families in order to make these swaps."

You can sign up to the Smart Swaps campaign online and by doing so you will receive a pack of healthy meal ideas, fun fridge magnets and money-off vouchers.

TV chef Ainsley Harriott, star of Ready, Steady, Cook and other food shows, acts as an ambassador for Change4Life.

"You'd be surprised about the amount of sugar and saturated fat you could cut from your diet just by swapping a few simple things," he said.

"You won't even notice the difference.

"The Smart Swaps campaign has so many ideas for swaps and recipes, there has never been a better time to make a healthier change to your diet than now."

You can sign up to the campaign online via the Change4Life website.

Like us on facebook
Search for *Oxford Journal*

Blood donors 'are an inspiration to us all'

BLOOD donors from all over the county have been recognised at a special awards dinner in Oxford.

Four donors from Oxfordshire were joined by 41 others from across the south at the The Oxford Spires Four Pillars Hotel.

They were all rewarded for their achievement of either 75 or 100 life saving donations and thanked for their generosity.

The donors were presented with crystal awards by guest speaker Simon Cooper, who has cystic fibrosis and received blood during a liver transplant and received blood, platelets and plasma during a double lung transplant.

Dominic Sutherland, lead donor relations manager at NHS Blood and Transplant, said: "We would like to thank these donors for their commitment and dedication.

"They are an inspiration to us all and we hope that others will follow in their footsteps.

"It is such a simple act, but can make a huge difference to someone in need."

For more information or to book an appointment call the Donor Line on 0300 123 23 23 or visit www.blood.co.uk.

• *(From left to right) Jaqueline Polley, Jean Shugar, Simon Cooper, Brian Sessions and Diane Warner at the ceremony*

Entertainment

Local entertainment, ranging from professional to amateur acts

If you would like your event considered for publication, please contact **Adam Flinn** at adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk or telephone 01235 516933

This year at the North Wall

• *Jo Caulfield's new show takes place*

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

OXFORD'S North Wall Theatre begins 2014 with a range of new shows coming to the Summertown venue, with a mix of theatre, comedy and music.

The dramatic and moving production of Blonde Poison tells the story of Stella Goldschlag, a Jew living illegally in war-torn Berlin who has to betray those in hiding to save herself and her parents from Auschwitz.

For the first time since 2011, the MOBO award-winning group Kairos 4tet perform at North Wall, this time from their critically-acclaimed third album 'Everything We Hold'.

Children's theatre show Nobody Rides the Unicorn takes place on January 25, following the greedy King of Joppardy and cunning Doctor Slythe, who trick young Zoe into helping them catch a unicorn.

Stand-up comic Jo Caulfield presents her 'Celebration of Anger' in February, discussing assistants, vacuous celebrities and TV quiz shows.

• *Four-piece band Kairos 4tet are at North Wall on January 22*

Theatrical production Ballad of the Burning Star comes to Oxford on February 13, as a cabaret troop invites audiences on a journey into the core

March begins with Grandpa's Railway, a production aimed at young children featuring a working model railway, live music and two playful characters.

Comedian Mitch Benn combines and love of music and The Beatles in his latest show, with the satirical twists for which Mitch is well known.

• *Ballad of the Burning Star is staged on February 13 and 14*

The Adventures of Alvin Sputnik: Deep Sea Explorer are told on March 13, in this theatre production of a quest to the bottom of the ocean to find his wife's lost soul and save humanity.

A full list of North Wall shows, including show times and ticket prices, can be found by going to www.thenorthwall.com or by

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Christmas Day - CLOSED, Boxing Day - CLOSED,
Friday 27th - 10.00am - 4.00pm, Saturday 28th - 9.00am - 5.00pm,
Sunday 29th - 10.00am - 4.00pm, Monday 30th - 10.00am - 4.00pm,
New Years Day - CLOSED, Thursday 2nd January - 9.00am - 5.30pm

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Entertainment

Local entertainment, ranging from professional to amateur acts

If you would like your event considered for publication, please contact **Adam Flinn** at adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk or telephone 01235 516933

Slide in to Old Fire Station

• *QI and Jonathan Creek star Alan Davies performs his new show on March 7*

OXFORD'S Old Fire Station has announced its latest series of events for the first few months of 2014, with a mix of regular events alongside one-off shows between now and March.

Tuesday sees the first monthly evening hosted by the Oxford Improvisers, as they invite guests to perform new and improvised music, which on this occasion has a New Year theme.

The Anti-Slam puts poets against each other as they try and create the worst piece of poetry they can, where the person with the lowest score is crowned the winner.

Mark Gwynne Jones, Sam Berkson and Zena Edwards host their show The Poetry of Madness, as the three discuss mental illness and how people are affected by it.

Unique one-man play Is he a bit Simon Jay? is being performed on February 1, bringing together character comedy and narrative drama to tell the tragic tale of Simon Rueben Jay.

Audiences can celebrate Valentine's Day Cuban-style with Oxford's own Ran Kan Kan and top Cuban carnival band Orchestra Bombo.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Oxford's 12th Human Rights Festival takes place at the end of February, raising awareness of related issues such as disaster relief, freedom of speech and equality through film and the arts.

Comedian and QI panellist Alan Davies is making his long-awaited return to stand-up with his new show 'Little Victories', coming to the Old Fire Station on March 7.

Scottish band North Sea Gas, made up of Dave Gilfillan, Ronnie MacDonald and Grant Simpson, return with their new show 'Scottish Fire', having received numerous music awards in their illustrious career.

A theatre production of Shakespeare's The Tempest is staged on March 21 and 22 telling the story of Prospero, who is marooned on a desert island and becomes a powerful magician.

• *Poetry of Madness takes place on January 25*

A full list of shows, start times and ticket costs can be found at www.oldfirestation.org.uk, or alternatively call 01865 263980.

Entertainment

Local entertainments, ranging from professional to amateur acts

If you would like your event considered for publication, please contact **Adam Flinn** at adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk or telephone 01235 516933

4 January - 5 January, 10am - 5pm
Oxford Town Hall
HEAVEN ON EARTH ORIENTAL RUGS EXHIBITION
An exhibition of oriental handmade carpets and tribal rugs, a selective collection by "Heaven on Earth Imports' agent in Iran.
7865051928

8 January - 11 January
Oxford Playhouse
FIJI LAND
fiji land is a surreal and incisive look at what happens when cell doors shut and the world looks away, directed by Oxford Playhouse/ MCS Resident Director Alice Malin.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

10 January, 8pm
Wallingford Town Hall
TALK: 'CHILDREN AND WAR: CHILDREN'S EXPERIENCES OF WW2 IN OXFORDSHIRE'
This talk looks at how the lives of Oxfordshire children, both those born in the county and those evacuated here, were affected by World War II. Visitors (¬£3) are most welcome.
www.twhas.org.uk

11 January, 10am - 12pm
University Parks, Oxford, OX1 3PL
TRY ORIENTEERING AT UNIVERSITY PARKS, OXFORD!
This is an exciting introduction to orienteering, organised by Thames Valley Orienteering Club, and is aimed at newcomers, families and runners of all ages and abilities. There will be longer courses for runners as well as shorter courses for families and children. You can run, jog or walk at your own pace. If you haven't tried orienteering before, we'll help you get started. Just don't forget your sense of adventure! You'll receive a special orienteering map showing your chosen course which will consist of a series of control points. The challenge is choosing your route between each one. At each point in the park, you,'ll find a marker flag and an electronic unit to register your progress around the course, using the small electronic chip we will lend you. Come along any time between 10am and 11.30am and give it a go. Just wear what you would for a run or walk. For more info visit our website at www.tvoc.org.uk, see our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/tvoclub or email us: publicity@tvoc.org.uk"
www.tvoc.org.uk/saturdayseries

12 January, 3pm
Henley Town Hall
ALLEN DIGITAL THEATRE ORGAN - PHIL KELSALL
£7 concessions £6.50
www.henleyorgantrust.org.uk

17 January, 8pm - 9pm
The North Wall, Oxford
BLONDE POISON
Stella Goldschlag was a Jew living illegally in war-torn Berlin when she was betrayed and tortured. To save herself and her parents from Auchswitz, she agreed to be a 'Greifer' for the Gestapo.
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

17 January, 8:30pm
Carswell Golf and Country Club, Faringdon, SN7 8PU
THE ALAN BARNES QUARTET PLAYS THE MUSIC OF ART PEPPER
Alan Barnes (alto), Craig Milverton (piano, Al Swainger (bass) and Nick Millward (drums).
www.oxfordlivejazz.com 01367 718903.

18 January, 8pm - 10pm
Jacqueline du Prv© Music Building
NICK VAN BLOSS (PIANO)
Bach's Goldberg Variations are well known, so why hear them again? Because you,Âove not heard them played like this!
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

18 January, 7.30pm
Oxford Playhouse
THE ONLY WAY IS DOWNTON
Following a sell-out run at the Edinburgh Fringe and prior to a West End season, acclaimed impressionist Luke Kempner presents tour-de-force comedy.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

18 January, 7:30pm - 9:30pm
St Margaret's Church, St Margaret's Road, Oxford OX2 6RX
ST GILES ORCHESTRA CONCERT
Wagner Flying Dutchman Overture Gliere Horn Concerto in Bb arr. bassoon (Shelly Organ) Tchaikovsky Symphony no 2 ""Little Russian"" We welcome back bassoonist Shelly Organ to play a bassoon arrangement of Gliere's lyrical Horn Concerto arranged especially for this occasion by Geoffrey Bushell. Tickets ¬£10 (students/OAPs ¬£9; under 18s free)."
07517487553 SalesStGilesOrchestra@gmail.com

18 January
Cornerstone, Didcot
CHAIRMAN OF SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL'S ANNUAL CHARITY GIG
Performing is REBECCA POOLE, a global jazz talent from Nettlebed in our very own district.

21 January - 25 January
Oxford Playhouse
TWELFTH NIGHT
Tickets: ¬£11 to ¬£26.50. Discounts available.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

22 January - 23 January
Cornerstone, Didcot
PAM AYRES
01235 515 144. www.cornerstone-arts.org

23 January, 8pm - 9:30pm
The North Wall, Oxford
366 DAYS OF KINDNESS
Part storytelling, part stand-up, part live documentary, featuring a dinner party with surprise guests including the Dalai Lama, Liam Neeson and Princess Diana, this show attempts to answer the question: is it possible to change the world just by being kind?
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

25 January, 8:20pm - 11pm
The Wheatsheaf High St Oxford
GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRIES
20.45 Gemma Moss
21.30 Barry & The Beachcombers
22.15 Molotiv Sexbomb
¬£4.50 on the door, cheaper at www.wegottickets.com/event/250112"
www.gappytooth.com

25 January
Royal Oak Pub, Woodstock Road, Oxford
PLAYHOUSE PLAYS OUT: BURNS NIGHT
Packed with poems and music, this promises to be a joyous celebration of one of Scotland's great poets. A traditional two-course haggis lunch or dinner is also included in the ticket price.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

25 January, 11am - 12pm
The North Wall, Oxford
NOBODY RIDES THE UNICORN
The greedy King and cunning Doctor trick a young girl into capturing the Unicorn. Zoe must set the Unicorn free,Ä¶ But will she be putting herself in danger? Puppets, original live music and moments of unexpected magic, blend together to tell this tale, based on Adrian Mitchell's modern classic.
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

27 January - 1-Feb-14
Oxford Playhouse
THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG
Tickets: ¬£11 to ¬£26.50. Discounts available.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

31 January, 8pm - 10pm
Jacqueline du Prv© Music Building
BERNARD D'ASCOLI (PIANO)
Bernard d'Ascoli offers a delightful programme of piano works.
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

Saturday 18 January
Tom Wrigglesworth
GLEE CLUB OXFORD
0871 472 0400 www.glee.co.uk/oxford

Puzzles

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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

	9		6			5		
6			1			7	4	
2				5	8	6		1
9	1			3		2		
	4		7		9		3	
		7		4			8	6
3		1	9	8				7
	5	9			7			2
		8			4		1	

	2			7			4	
6								3
		3	9		5	2		
3	1		7		9		6	4
			6		4			
5	4		1		2		9	7
		8	5		1	4		
1								5
	9			6			8	

4		8			7			
		3		8				
	1	9						
	4		9				5	2
9			7		4			1
2	8				3		6	
						3	9	
				5		2		
			6			4		5

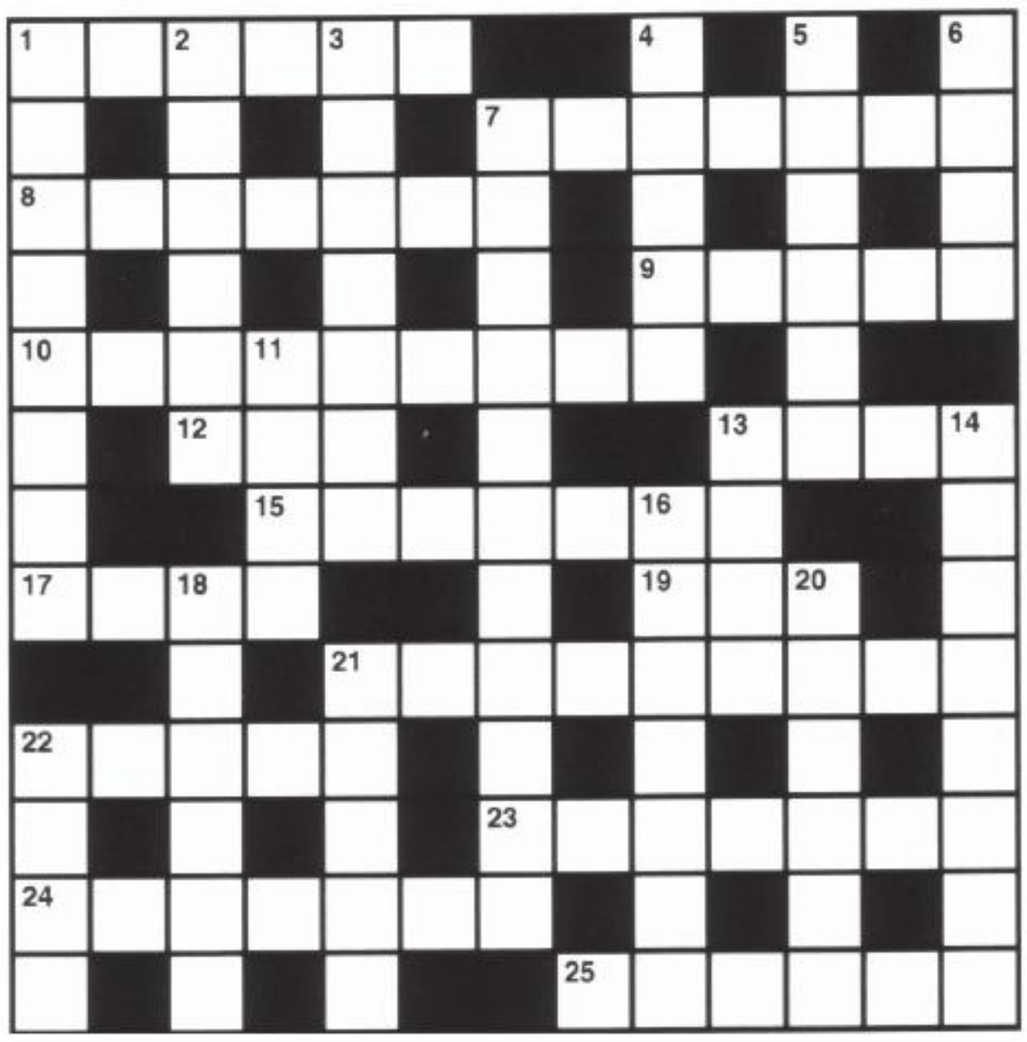
Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across
1 Views (6)
7 Pacify (7)
8 Out of doors (4,3)
9 Fool (5)
10 Operating by itself (9)
12 Singular (3)
13 Writing fluids (4)
15 Choked (7)
17 American university (4)
19 Negative word (3)
21 Gesture ofgreeting (9)
22 Noosed rope (5)
23 Become less brisk (7)
24 Most elevated (7) 25 Metals (6)

Quick Clues Down
1 One who hides aboard ship (8)
2 Jewish quarter (6)
3 Shackle (7)
4 Fundamental (5)
5 Fixed allowance (6)
6 Chair (4)
7 Leading character (11)
11 On one occasion only (4)
13 Image (4)
14 Snakes (8)
16 Delight (7)
18 Finally (6)
20 Equipment (6)
21 Cavities (5)
22 After due or usual time (4)

Cryptic Clues Across
1 Think again and bring salvation (6)
7 Spoken from memory - about the co-respondent? (7)
8 The urge to admit I'm beat (7)
9 Lay back to see it was faithful (5)
10 Pause to bury the duellist, disturbed and listless (9)
12 Droop as the heat comes back (3)
13 Except a backward Middle Eastern (4)
15 We hear of waterproofing the roof (7)
17 Frame the band (4)
19 The fish returns on the sheltered side (3)
21 Writing down the recipe for the best gin sling? (9)
22 Sounds the correct way to sign (5)
23 Exposing the falseness of the fastening (7)
24 Stays for the ruins (7)
25 There's cold comfort in such blockhouses (6)

Cryptic Clues Down
1 Denunciations of fences? (8)
2 Warehouses of French containers (6)
3 How the angler with the tail of one that got away will exaggerate (7)
4 Balance the proportionate size (5)
5 One who supports a game contestant? (6)
6 I'd look back at the image (4)
7 Politicians who are concerned with ancient tax collectors (11)
11 Teachers can provide something for everyone (4)
13 Grew old having managed without a husband (4)
14 Loose women secure challenges (8)
16 Initially very good inner way of getting up courage (7)
18 Sacred marks - no thanks, a mark of infamy (6)
20 The same - see around for a vital urge (6)
21 Time to take right back and send the money (5)
22 Was dressed for battle by the sound of it (4)



Scribble space

Last week's solutions

4	1	7	5	2	6	3	9	8
5	3	8	4	7	9	6	1	2
2	9	6	1	3	8	7	4	5
8	4	1	9	6	5	2	3	7
7	5	3	2	8	1	9	6	4
6	2	9	7	4	3	8	5	1
1	6	5	8	9	7	4	2	3
9	7	4	3	5	2	1	8	6
3	8	2	6	1	4	5	7	9

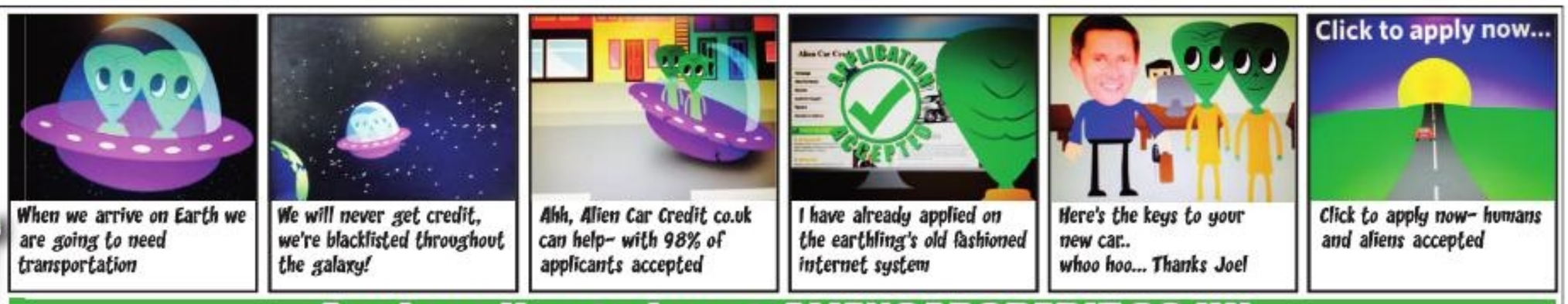
2	5	4	1	9	8	6	3	7
9	1	7	5	3	6	8	2	4
6	3	8	2	4	7	9	1	5
4	9	1	7	6	5	3	8	2
8	7	6	3	2	1	5	4	9
5	2	3	9	8	4	7	6	1
3	4	9	8	7	2	1	5	6
1	8	2	6	5	9	4	7	3
7	6	5	4	1	3	2	9	8

6	2	5	7	1	3	8	4	9
9	4	3	6	2	8	1	7	5
8	1	7	9	4	5	2	6	3
3	7	4	5	8	2	6	9	1
2	8	1	3	9	6	7	5	4
5	9	6	1	7	4	3	8	2
7	5	2	4	6	1	9	3	8
4	6	8	2	3	9	5	1	7
1	3	9	8	5	7	4	2	6

Quick Crossword
Across: 1 Symbolic 4 Apes 8 Inroad 10 Banana 11 Queen 12 Revue 14 Aerial 17 Reelected 18 Vanishing 22 Smiles 23 Essay 24 Steal 26 Splits 27 Damask 28 Sate 29 Handlers
Down: 1 Spin 2 Murder 3 Opaque 5 Placid 6 Smallest 7 Manet 9 Duellists 10 Beachhead 13 Venal 15 Reins 16 Persists 18 Violet 19 Nests 20 Island 21 Garage 25 Skis

Cryptic Crossword
Across: 1 Officers 4 Keep 8 Ballad 10 Rescue 11 Sited 12 Fires 14 Castle 17 Perchance 18 Recoiling 22 Abacus 23 Inter 24 Beans 26 Nailed 27 George 28 Yule 29 Ebb tides
Down: 1 Orbs 2 Fillip 3 Chaser 5 Excite 6 Presence 7 Sedan 9 Disclosed10 Recalling 13 Rebec 15 Scant 16 Ungainly 18 Radial 19 Cubes 20 Insect 21 Geared 25 Bets

ALIEN CAR CREDIT


When we arrive on Earth we are going to need transportation
We will never get credit, we're blacklisted throughout the galaxy!
Ahh, Alien Car Credit co.uk can help- with 98% of applicants accepted
I have already applied on the earthling's old fashioned internet system
Here's the keys to your new car.. whoo hoo... Thanks Joel
Click to apply now...
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AUTOWEEKLY

A worthy and capable effort

REVIEW: CHEVROLET CRUZE

By **Philip Shoulder**

@writeonmotoring

THINK medium sized family hatchback and the usual suspects are likely to enter your mind: Ford Focus, Vauxhall Astra, Volkswagen Golf, and Skoda Octavia, along with newcomers from Kia and Hyundai... but Chevrolet?

In recent years, the American brand has also had its eyes set on the European hatchback market. Now the firm is offering its medium saloon – the Cruze – in hatchback and estate guises.

This new contender to the competitive medium-sized family sector bears very close relation to the perennial Vauxhall Astra, sharing the same platform, running gear and other key components.

Cruze comes in four trim guises. S and LS models get CD/MP3 playback, digital radio, front electric windows, adjustable steering column and manual air-conditioning, with higher spec LT and LTZ benefiting from MP3, iPod connectivity, automatic climate control, cruise control, sat-nav and auto lights and wipers.

A nice touch is the woven fabric material that covers the dashboard and front doors. It looks distinctive and is effective in breaking up the boring mass of plastic.

Inside, the Cruze offers generous amounts of space and great versatility – the extra rear overhang resulting in a 413 litre boot - substantially bigger than Astra's 351 litres and the Ford Focus's 316 litres. Throughout the cabin there's various storage places, including the two-tier glove box, centre console and door pockets incorporating bottle holders, while a central cubby doubles as an arm rest. Seating is comfortable, if a bit firm; the driving position will accommodate drivers of all sizes. The Cruze might not have quite such a sophisticated suspension set-up as the Astra, but on the road, for the most part, you'll be none the wiser – as the Chevrolet feels secure, planted and fluid. The ride can get a bit fidgety on some rougher roads at lower speeds, but on most surfaces it's pliant enough.

The 1.7 litre diesel strikes a skilful balance between offering good economy (62.7mpg claimed) and low CO2 emissions (117g/km), with strong, useable performance. Rather thick B-pillars do slightly block over-the-shoulder-vision when parking, albeit no worse than many cars in this class, but front parking sensors would certainly be a helpful edition.

Verdict:

It might not quite have the polish of the best performers in this class, but nevertheless, it's hard not to be won over with this very worthy and capable effort from Chevrolet.

• *The new Chevrolet Cruze*

New year - new car...

LODGE HILL GARAGE
ABINGDON

09 59 MERCEDES C220 2.2 CDi BLUE EFFICIENCY SPORT ESTATE DIESEL AUTO, met grey, light grey leather, heated seats, AMG alloys, 93k, FSH £12,995

10 60 TOYOTA AVENSIS 2.0 TD4 D-4D, met black, full cream leather, sat nav, heated seats, radio/CD, 78k, FSH £9,995

09 09 AUDI A3 1.9 TDI SE, 5dr, met silver, e/windows, e/mirrors, a/c, radio/CD, alloys, 68k, FSH
£8,795

07 07 TOYOTA AYGO+ 1.0VVTI 3dr, met blue, e/windows, radio/CD, remote locking, FSH, only 35k
£4,295

09 09	**BMW Z4 23 S-DRIVE 2.5 HARDTOP CONVERTIBLE,** met black, full red leather, heated seats, e/roof, 55k, FSH	now £14,495
09 59	**MERCEDES C220 2.2 CDi BLUE EFFICIENCY SPORT ESTATE DIESEL AUTO,** met grey, light grey leather, heated seats, AMG alloys, 93k, FSH	£12,995
08 58	**VOLKSWAGEN SCIROCCO 2.0 TSi,** met blue, full black leather, heated seats, sat nav, climate, 50k, FSH	£11,495
07 07	**MERCEDES R320L 3.0 CDi SE AUTO,** met silver, 6 seats, full black leather, sat nav, alloys, 98k, FSH	£10,995
09 09	**FORD S-MAX 2.0 ZETEC TDCI 7 SEATER,** met silver,climate control,alloys,1 owner,fsh,51k	£10295
08 08	**AUDI A4 2.0 TDI S-LINE ESTATE DIESEL,** met black,alloys,climate control,radio/cd,fsh,72k,	£9995
10 60	**TOYOTA AVENSIS 2.0 TD4 D-4D,** met black, full cream leather, sat nav, heated seats, radio/CD, 78k, FSH	£9,995
10 60	**AUDI A3 1.6 TDI SE,** met blue, 5dr, alloys, a/c, e/windows and mirrors, remote locking, FSH, 76k	£9,495
09 09	**AUDI A3 1.9 TDI SE,** 5dr, met silver, e/windows, e/mirrors, a/c, radio/CD, alloys, 68k, FSH	£8,795
09 59	**FORD FOCUS 2.0 TITANIUM TDCI,** met silver, 5dr, a/c, heated front screen, alloys, FSH, 48k	£8,495
10 10	**HONDA JAZZ i-VTEC EX 1.4,** 5dr, met silver, climate, e/windows, e/mirrors, alloys, radio/CD, 28k, FSH	now £8,495
09 58	**FORD FOCUS 2.0 TDCi ZETEC ESTATE AUTO,** met black, a/c, radio/CD, alloys, front fogs, 33k, FSH	£8,495
10 60	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LIMITED EDITION 5DR,** white with black alloys, black panaramic roof, a/c, radio/CD, FSH, 27k	£7995
08 08	**VW PASSAT 2.0 TDI HIGHLINE 140 DSG SALOON,** met black with full black leather, climate, alloys, 72k, FSH	£7,495
06 06	**MERCEDES CLK280 3.0 AUTO COUPE,** met silver, radio/CD, r/locking, climate control, only 54k, FSH	£6,995
10 10	**FORD FIESTA 1.25 EDGE,** 5dr, blue, radio/CD, e/windows & mirrors, a/c, only 11k, FSH	£6,995
10 60	**VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 EXCLSIVE,** 5dr, met silver, alloys, radio/CD, a/c, cruise control , 39k, FSH	now £6,795
07 57	**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 SRi (120) CDTi,** 7 seats, met grey, alloys, radio/CD, multiple airbags, a/c, 45k, FSH	£6,295
07 07	**MAZDA MX5 1.8i CONVERTIBLE,** met grey, radio/CD, a/c, alloys, e/windows & mirrors, 61k, FSH	now £5,995
08 08	**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6T SRi,** 3 dr, met grey, alloys, a/c, radio/CD, e/windows & mirrors, 55k, FSH	£5,995
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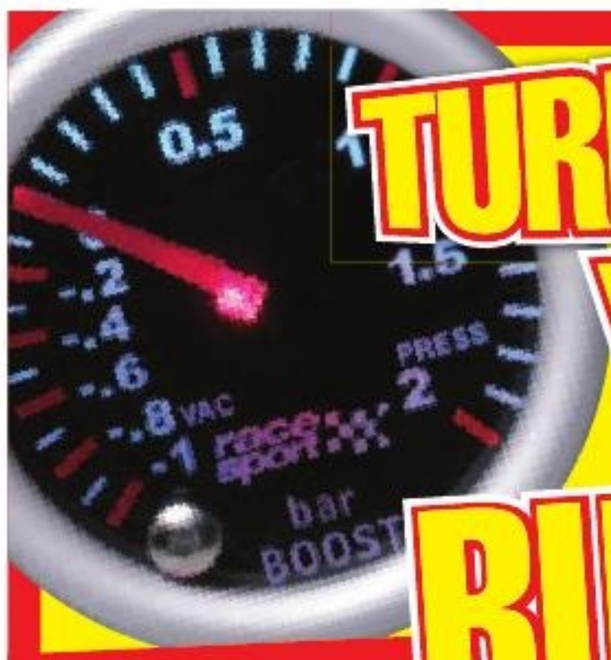

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MANAGER - DISPLAY WAS UNACCEPTABLE

U's boss slams team after loss to promotion rivals Scunthorpe

AN ANGRY Chris Wilder pulled no punches in his post-match assessment as Oxford United slipped to consecutive defeats for the first time this season following a 2-0 loss to Scunthorpe on Sunday.

By **James Booker**
jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Goals in each half from Deon Burton and David Syers saw Russ Wilcox's side leave the Kassam with all three points, just three days after the U's Boxing Day home defeat to Plymouth Argyle.

Both sides missed penalties – Ryan Clarke dived to his right to keep out a Burton spot-kick when it was 1-0 after Deane Smalley handled a corner.

The former Chesterfield striker had a golden chance to bring Oxford back into the game eight minutes from time, after strike partner James Constable was felled in the area by visiting keeper Sam Slocombe.

Slocombe, who might have seen red on another day for the foul, brilliantly kept out Smalley's effort.

But it was the manner of Sunday's loss that left a bitter taste in Wilder's mouth.

"In four parts of the game – tactically, technically, physically and mentally – we were second best," he said.

"We didn't deserve anything from the game. It was by far and away our poorest performance of the season.

"We've escaped – they deserved to have won by a couple more at least. If our penalty had gone in, and we had gone on to get something out the game , it would have been an absolute travesty.

"They know that display was unacceptable to me and unacceptable to the supporters.

"I don't want to see that again, and they know that.

"We were second best all afternoon, we made poor decisions and we gifted them their first goal, and the second one was another mistake.

"They played like the home side, and we made poor decisions in every area in every part of the game.

"They made good decisions, their centre-halves were strong and they took no chances.

"Their midfield players got on the second ball, and their front players, especially in the second half, were a constant threat."

Oxford travelled to fellow promotion hopefuls Newport County on New Year's Day, after the Journal went to press.

At the time, Oxford were fifth in League Two, with 38 points from 23 matches. Newport were seventh, just one point behind, with a game in hand.

Oxford United 0
Scunthorpe United 2

• *Ryan Williams battled for the ball in Oxford United's defeat to Plymouth on Boxing Day (Picture by Steve Daniels)*

• *Words and picture by Mike Allen*

Solihull prove too good for Ford's battling City

OXFORD City surrendered their three-month unbeaten home record to high fliers Solihull Moors on Saturday.

The home side started brightly, with Adam Learoyd inches away from turning in a Winters corner and Winters himself shooting over from a good position.

However, it was the visitors who opened the scoring on 20 minutes when Peter Till fired home past Mark Scott.

Scott also saved well from Omar Bogle and Junior English to keep City in the game.

City started the second half with renewed purpose as the Solihull goal led a charmed life with City piling on the pressure.

Dominic Langdon deflected Winters' corner onto his own crossbar while Callum McNish and Jamie Cook saw efforts saved by Jas Singh.

However, the visitors made the game safe after an hour when Bogle outpaced the City defence before shooting low past Scott.

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